

## Christmas 2019

From Royston BC, Jennie & I want to wish you a very...



*It's almost time to get together with family & friends and to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.*

*For a few moments, sit back, relax, and let me tell you a little of what we've been up to this year.*

*On April Fools day (no joke), we left Comox and headed south to Victoria for a couple of weeks. One evening we walked to a pub along the harbour shore. On our return walk, we looked back at downtown Victoria.*



*We walked into town one day; Jen used her power wheelchair. After a few hours of strolling around, I wasn't really looking forward to the walk back; my feet were tired! I suggested taking a harbour ferry. These little passenger ferries are like taxis; you call, they come and pick you up. Pretty neat and very comfortable. Jen's travel wheelchair breaks into 3 parts, so it was easy to load onto the ferry.*

*After two great weeks in BC's capital, we boarded BC Ferries to Vancouver then drove east to Chilliwack. We enjoyed a week catching up with old neighbours and friends from our Maple Ridge days who have since moved out to the Fraser Valley to get away from the crush of the lower mainland.*

*Then it was time to drive north through the beautiful Fraser Canyon to 100 Mile House to visit my old chum Colin and Mary for a few days. Darn technology was against me when I tried the timer to take this group picture.*

*On to Clearwater and Jan and Dave's, Colin's sister and brother-in-law for a weekend. They're a neat couple who make visiting really easy.*

*In early May, Enderby, at the northern end of the Okanagan Valley, was our next port of call. We just had to stop and say hello to an old RV friend and his daughter, whom we had never met. Great to see Gary again and meet Deana. We spent a very enjoyable weekend.*





On May 6, we headed to Castlegar, in the Kootenay region of south-eastern BC, to meet our cargo trailer friend, Garnett and Rosie, his Springer Spaniel co-pilot. Here we are side x side at Kootenay River RV Park.

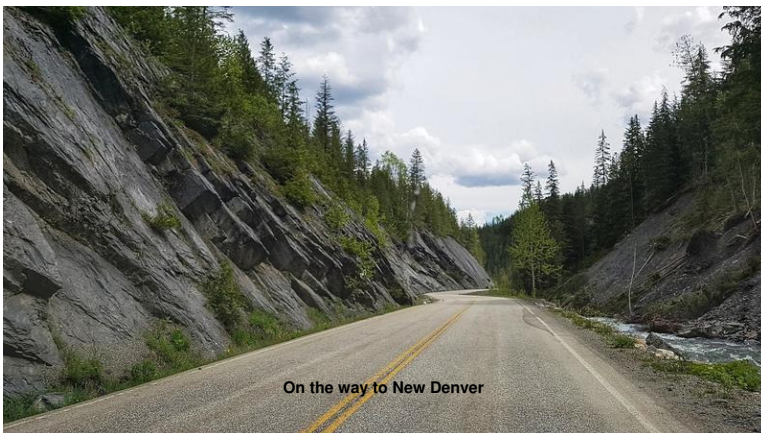
After our week there, Garnett, Rosie, Jen & I spent the next 4 weeks exploring Kaslo; Nelson; Kokanee Creek, Lost Ledge, and Moyie Lake provincial parks; Cranbrook; and Kimberley. We had a fantastic time.



Kokanee Creek P.P.



SS Moyie in Kaslo



On the way to New Denver



Lost Ledge P.P. north of Kaslo



*In Nelson, Jen got us a private ride on the old tram thanks to her volunteering to help work out the handicap lift onto the tram. We visited Nelson a number of times. We smiled at this banner, thinking it must mean the start of the tourist season.*



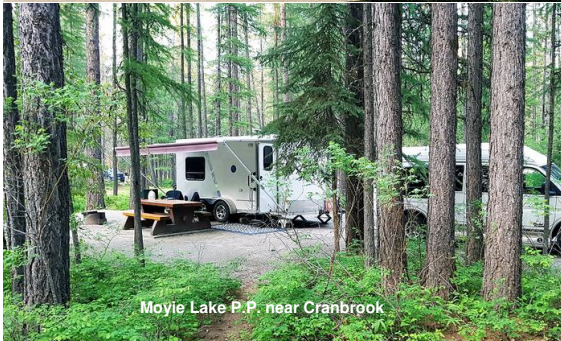
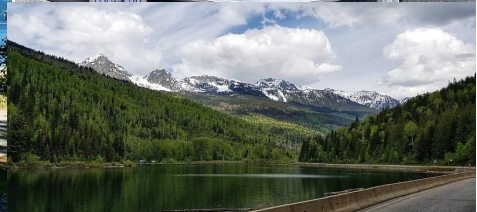
Tram in Nelson



Car Show in Kaslo



Lost Ledge P.P. on Kootenay Lake



Movie Lake P.P. near Cranbrook



Free Ferry across Kootenay Lake

*I rode my bicycle from Kimberley back to Cranbrook one sunny day—over 28 kms. What a delightful ride! Here's the trestle crossing the St Mary's river.*

*During our 3½ months in the Kootenays, we visited wineries, breweries, and museums. Just outside of Creston we visited a computerized dairy farm. These "pampered" cows come and go as they please.*

*If it's time to be milked, they head to the computerized milking machine, but they're only milked if the computer system agrees. When it's time*







for a nap, they just find a comfy spot and lie down. What an incredibly fascinating operation.

We moved on to Crawford Bay, a small artsy-fartsy community, for the last week of June. We visited Barefoot Handweaving, North Woven Broom Co. and Kootenay Forge among other places. Crawford Bay is just a short drive from the eastern ferry terminal on Kootenay Lake.

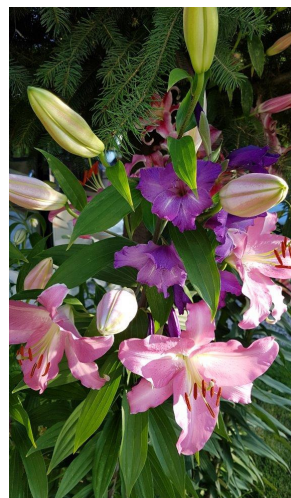
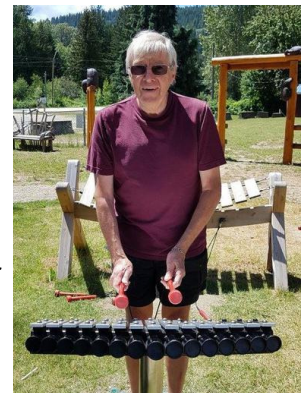


I tried my hand on one of the marimbas at the Community Park across from the campground.

After the July 1 Canada Day weekend, we headed back to Castlegar and Kootenay River RV Park.

We stayed for 2 weeks, then went south to Trail for the last 2 weeks of July, then returned to Kootenay River

RV Park for a final 2 weeks. We just fell in love with KR RV Park. The entire park was beautiful—adult only with green grass & flowers everywhere.





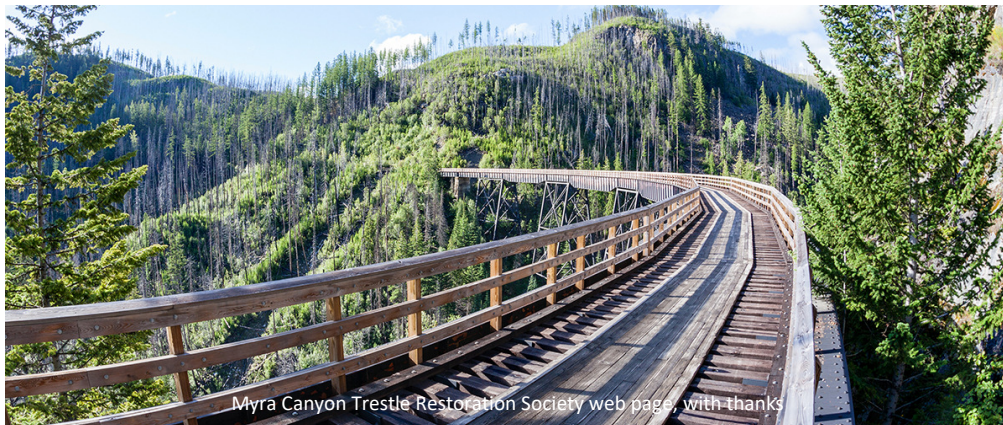
Mid-August we headed west to Grand Forks for 4 nights. Continuing our journey west to Midway, we stopped briefly in Christina Lake. The Welcome Centre has a floor painting that Jen said we just had to see. If you stand in the correct place, well, I'll let the picture do the talking. Pretty neat, eh?!

After 3 lovely days in Midway, we headed towards Kelowna in the Okanagan Valley. One morning, we drove to Myra Canyon. If you are not familiar with this walking/cycling trail, do yourself a favour and look it up on the web. It has a fascinating history.

Being a train buff, cycling Myra Canyon was something I had wanted to do for a very long time. The trail surface was reasonably hard-packed so Jen tagged along for just over a kilometre down the trail which was great! Here is one of my favourite pictures...



Notice how the benches are built to resemble a wooden trestle! Can you see where the trail is on the other side of the canyon? What a spectacular day for both of us.



Myra Canyon Trestle Restoration Society web page, with thanks

We continued north to Clearwater to retrieve our patio mat we'd inadvertently left on our earlier visit. Then, heading south towards Kamloops, we turned west and stopped at Gold Pan Provincial Park just south of Spences Bridge. We have driven past this small provincial park many times; this time we stayed for 2 nights in a very private site. That's the clear blue, and mighty Thompson River rushing past our lovely campsite.





In early September, we arrived on the Sunshine Coast. We had not been there for decades so we thought it might be fun to explore the area for a few weeks. Our first stop was Gibsons, home to the CBC comedy series, *The Beachcombers* (1972-1990). Molly's Reach featured prominently in the series. We explored the area for a week.



Next was Sechelt, just a few clicks up the (only) highway. We went to the Lighthouse Pub for dinner our first night. Wings and a brew! Just what we fancied.



Then it was on to Earls Cove for a week. Close to the ferry terminal to Powell River, this RV park was very isolated. We had an unexpected guest one morning.

One afternoon, we drove back to Pender Harbour for a harbour cruise. The weather had been cloudy all week, but the sun shone brilliantly during our 2-hour cruise.



We visited Egmont and enjoyed brunch with a view. What a pretty spot.

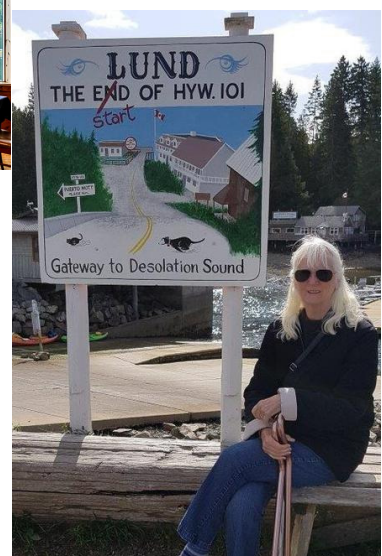


We spent the last week at our final destination, Powell River. One morning we drove to the north end of Hwy 101 in Lund. The southern end of Hwy 101 is 25,000 kms south in Castro, Chile. That would be quite a drive!

So there you have it.

We really appreciated the almost 4 months we spent in the Kootenays—dry, hot, sunny days with very few overnight t-showers and virtually NO smoke from forest fires. It was an exceptional summer in that regard—a welcome break from the last couple of summers.

In closing, Jennie & I wish you all the best for Christmas and hope you have a very **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



For more pictures and information, see our blog: [www.tusker-international.com/blog.html](http://www.tusker-international.com/blog.html).